

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Takahiro FUCHIGAMI et al.  
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD  
Appl. No.: To Be Assigned  
Filing Date: August 6, 2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Document A1 discloses an image processor in which image signals of an image and the feature signal (identification data) of each pixel of the image are generated by the controller.

Document A2 is a co-pending U.S. patent application filed in the Patent Office on May 21, 2001.

Document A3 discloses an image processor in which tag data (identification data) are newly generated based on the correspondence between the inputted pixel data and the tag data.

Document A4 discloses an imaging device in which the printing position of an image and character edge identification signals are corrected based on the result of image distortion detection.

Document A5 discloses an image processor in which image signals of an image and the feature signal (identification data) of each pixel of the image are generated by the controller, and, consequently, conditions in which feature signals are generated can be specified.

Document A6 discloses image signals of an image and the feature signal (identification data) of each pixel of the image are generated by the controller, but the image signals or the feature signals are not regenerated by the printer apparatus.

English translations of documents A1 and A3-A6 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A3-A6.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 6, 2001

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| Form PTO-1449<br>(MODIFIED)   |     | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |            | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>016907-1246        |       | SERIAL NO.<br>To Be Assigned |                                  |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br><br><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>  |     |  |            | APPLICANT<br>Takahiro FUCHIGAMI et al. |       |                              |                                  |
|   |     |  |            | FILING DATE<br>August 6, 2001          |       | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Unassigned |                                  |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | REF | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER   | DATE       | NAME                                   | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS                | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|   |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |
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| <b>U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS</b>  |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | REF | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER   | DATE       | NAME                                   | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS                | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|   | A1  | 09/860,574   |            | Yamamoto                               |       |                              | 05/21/2001                       |
|   | A2  | 09/843,844   |            | Yamamoto                               |       |                              | 04/30/2001                       |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |
|   | REF | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER   | DATE       | COUNTRY                                | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS                | TRANSLATION<br>YES   NO          |
|   | A3  | 2000-270213  | 09/29/2000 | Japan                                  |       |                              | Abstract                         |
|   | A4  | 11-348352  | 12/21/1999 | Japan                                  |       |                              | Abstract                         |
|   | A5  | 9-282472   | 10/31/1997 | Japan                                  |       |                              | Abstract                         |
|   | A6  | 9-282471   | 10/31/1997 | Japan                                  |       |                              | Abstract                         |
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>   |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |
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| EXAMINER  |     |  |            | DATE CONSIDERED                        |       |                              |                                  |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |     |  |            |  |       |                              |                                  |